

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

REPORT

SUBJECT Bulgarian Resources of Lead, Zinc, Silver, Iron, Gold, and Other Metals

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

Lead, Silver, and Zinc

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1. Lead, silver, and zinc are all extracted from the same ore (galena) in the following percentages:
 - a. Lead, 67 percent;
 - b. Silver, 18 percent; and
 - c. Zinc, 15 percent.
2. The extraction of these ores is carried out by Gorubso, the Bulgarian-Soviet mining organization, which is also responsible for the exploitation of other minerals.
3. Most of the production is sent to the Soviet Union.
4. The most important deposits are in the Rhodope Mountains, and particularly in the following villages:
 - a. Madan, (three mines;
 - b. Rudozem, three mines;
 - c. Borieva Reka, three mines;
 - d. Konski Dol, two mines;
 - e. Strashimir, two mines;
 - f. Petrovitsa; and
 - g. Kurovgrad (sic).

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5. The total production is allegedly sent to Kurdzhali by means of the teleferic line.
6. Other small exploitation zones for this ore are said to be located at Iskresh and Asenovgrad.
7. The production of these metals for the year 1925 was as follows:
 - a. Lead, 5,000 tons;
 - b. Silver, 1,000 tons; and
 - c. Zinc, 1,000 tons.
8. The present production is estimated to be about 180 tons per day, which amounts to about 65,000 tons per year. According to the Five-Year Plan, the lead production is supposed to be 13,300 tons for 1953.

Iron

9. The following limonite mines were known to have been in existence in the past:
 - a. In the Sofia area;
 - b. In the Kazanluk area; and
 - c. In the Samokov area.
10. At present the following mines are in operation:
 - a. Gradovo, production not known;
 - b. Elin Pelin, production 10,000 tons per year;
 - c. Smolyan-Zlatograd, allegedly some iron is found with the other minerals (lead, zinc, silver) in this area; and
 - d. Maritsa basin, important new deposits have allegedly been located in this area; an unconfirmed report states that the annual production from this area is 130,000 tons of raw ore; the ore is allegedly to be processed in Georgi Chankov complex under construction in Stara Zagora.
11. The production of cast-iron and steel, according to the Five-Year Plan, is allegedly as follows:
 - a. Cast-iron, 20 tons; and
 - b. Steel, 10 tons.

Manganese

12. Deposits of manganese were formerly discovered in the areas of Varna (now Stalin), Yambol, and Sofia. At present the most important deposits are said to be those of Varna. Annual production in 1925 was 800 tons. No other data are available concerning the mining of manganese or the present production.

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Chromium

13. In the past, chromium deposits were not exploited. Reports have been received of deposits at Gostun (between Nevrokop and Razlog), but there are no details concerning mining of the ore.

Aluminum

14. In the past, Bulgaria did not produce aluminum, but deposits are now being exploited in the Dolni Okol and Radomir areas. Production of these mines is not known. These zones are allegedly being built up to increase the production of the mines.

Sodium

15. Up to 1939, most of the sodium production was derived from the salt deposits northeast of Burgas and from the quarries of Provadiya (west of Varna). The 1935 production was 6,000 tons per year. At present, because of the intensified exploitation in the Provadiya area, there are industrial establishments under construction between Devnya and Provadiya for the production of calcined soda and glass.

Talc

16. Small deposits of talc are known to be in existence around Sliven, Karnobat, and northeast of Pazardzhik. No details are available concerning the present production or exploitation of these deposits.

Gold

17. Small gold-mining zones are allegedly located west of Stara Zagora, north of Nova Zagora, and at Busentsi on the Yugoslav border. No data are available concerning the present exploitation or production of the ore.

Barium

18. Small barium mines are allegedly located at Zemen and Petrich. Production is not known.

Sketch

19. A sketch of Bulgaria showing the various mineral deposits and mining areas in Bulgaria is enclosed as an Appendix, pages 4 and 5.

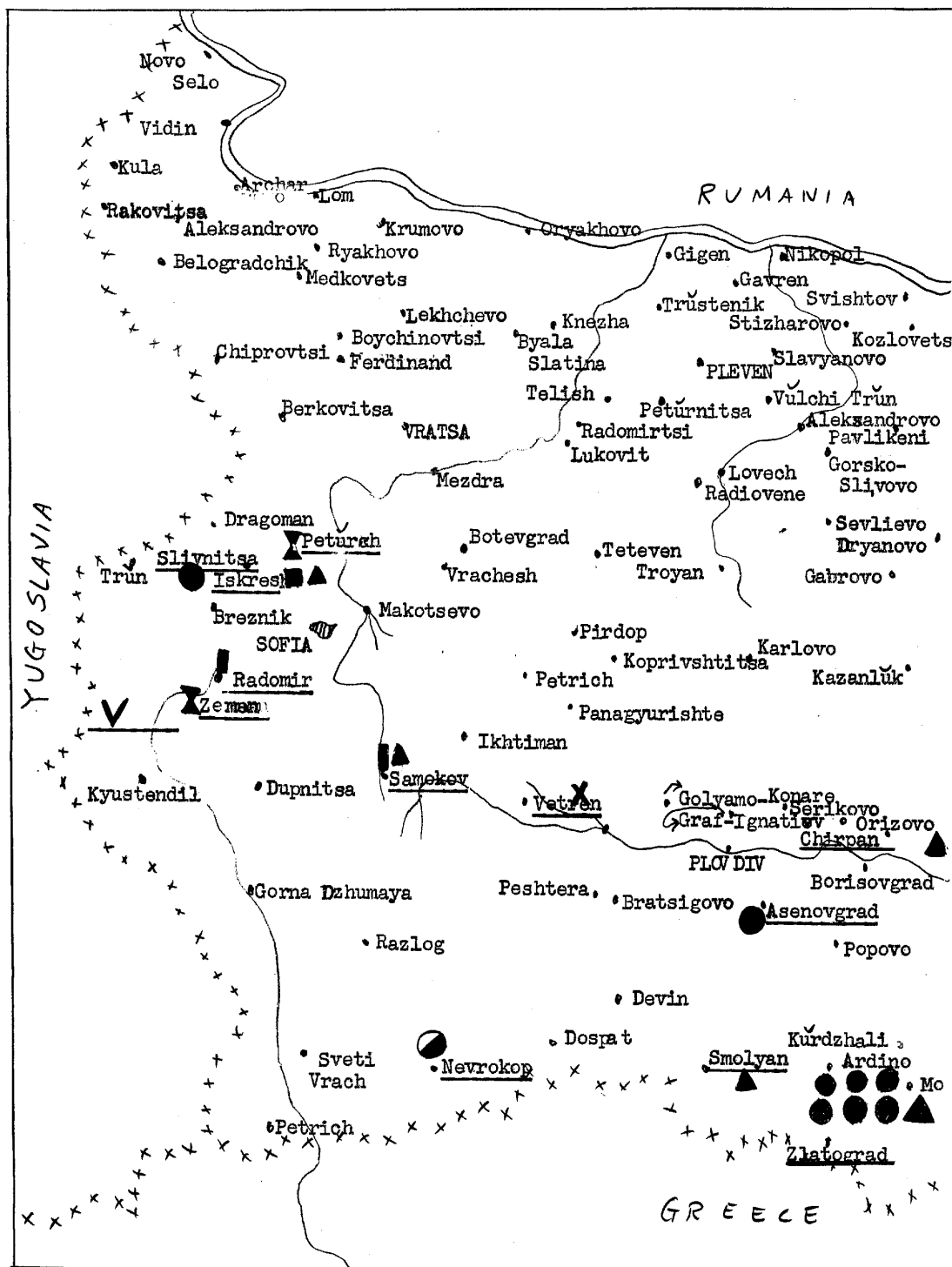
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APPENDIX

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Mineral Deposits in Bulgaria - November 1953

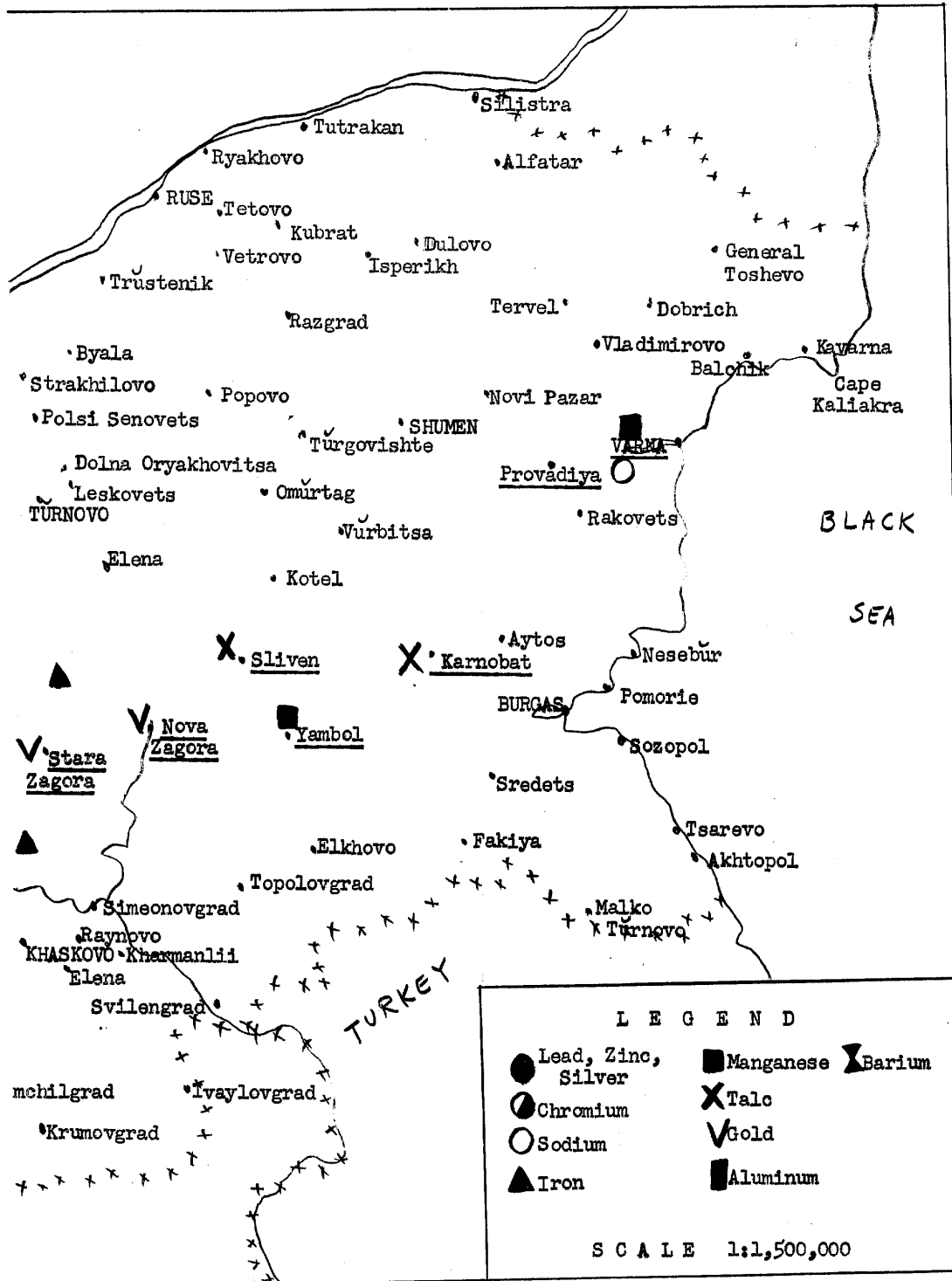
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APPENDIX (Continued)

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